

I'm happy to have an opportunity to speak to all of you and happy to see the LOBs getting involved in the OSH program. I'm Jeanne Kosch and I lead the Department's OSH program with responsibility for the health & safety of all employees in DOT. I'm located within the Office of the Secretary, otherwise known as OST under the Assistant Secretary for Administration, Melissa Allen, who is the DASHO. I work in the Office of Security & Administrative Management. I get to see what's going on in a good cross section of the Department because our office handles internal policy for areas such as environment, property (real & personal), energy, aviation, security, and motor vehicles. Many of these have OSH implications.

In addition, our DASHO, Melissa Allen is very interested in the OSH program. I have direct access to her and I keep her informed of what is going on with the program. This is important because when an issue or problem pops up, she is familiar with what's going on in the program and we can work the situation quickly.

We also get assistance from DOL. OSHA and OWCP are implementing the FW2K initiative that was issued in 1999. This initiative carries goals that each agency must meet in the areas of injury and lost production day reductions and timelier processing of claims. This initiative will run thru FY 04. For FY 00, DOT met the timeliness goal but just missed the injury reduction goal. We'll be working with those OAs who did not meet their goals.

Some people asked if this initiative will go away now that there is a new administration. So far the answer has been No. In fact, if you look back historically to when the 1<sup>st</sup> injury reduction goals were issued; it was during former President Reagan's term.

In fact, recently, DOD received a letter from 2 Republicans in the House telling them that they are not giving safety a high enough priority and that it is buried too deep in the organization. Treasury Secretary O'Neil wants to see their injuries reduced by 50% next year. Drawing on his Alcoa days, he and others believe that when you take care of people, providing them a safe & healthful work environment, they are more productive and happier not only in work but also at home. As a result society benefits. He was

involved with the safety program at Alcoa. He had senior leadership involved. The results were high productivity and a reduction in injuries.

I'll be meeting with Melissa shortly to determine what we can do to help all of you run a successful OSH program and how we can evaluate how well you are doing in this area.

You have a big job ahead of you. You need to work with your senior leaders to get them involved in and aware of the program. We'll be working on this from the Department level. We realize that with any successful program, you have to know if what you do has any impact. With this you need to be able to measure and demonstrate results.

This year we were successful in getting the OSH program in the performance plans for the Administrators with a trickle down to all senior management, i.e., make employee safety a core value and meet the FW2K goals. How many of you know that this is supposed to be a part of the performance plans? How many of you were involved in developing what your LOB is going to do to meet the goal? I encourage you to find out what your LOB is doing in this area. I already submitted the language that will be in the 2002 performance plan going to Congress. We'll have to report on our progress. We will continue to push the effort to make safety a core value.

I look forward to following FAAs progress. I wish you all luck. The OSH staffs in AEE and ANS are very good to work with – draw on their expertise. If there is something I can do, or if you have comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to call me. My number is 60038. Wear your seat belt; make sure all your passengers are buckled up. And for those of you who know me when I used to work here, I am always Penn State Proud. Thank you.